



# Press Release

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## **OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

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To: *Editor in Chief*  
*Newsroom*

**December 22, 2005**

### **U.S. Army Gives \$20,000 in School Supplies and Equipment to Schools and Library in Eleven Municipalities in Macedonia**

#### **New Year Donation Facilitated by USAID and Other Offices of U.S. Mission in Skopje**

More than 200 items, valued at over \$20,000 U.S., have been donated by the U.S. Army to schools and a public library in the Republic of Macedonia. The delivery of the school supplies and equipment is being coordinated by the U.S. Embassy in Skopje, working through the Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which oversees a Decentralization Project and Municipal Good Governance Fund (MGGF). ODC and USAID are parts of the U.S. Mission to Macedonia.

"Decentralization means that municipalities now have the responsibility for providing quality education. This generous donation-in-kind from the U.S. Army is a much-appreciated opportunity, given the serious lack of school supplies, books, and furniture in many municipalities," said Dragana Conik, MGGF Procurement Specialist.

Schools in ten municipalities -- Debar, Zrnovci, Tetovo, Oslomej, Aerodrom, Gazi Baba, Demir Kapija, Valandovo, Zelino, Rankovce -- and the "Braka Miladinovci" municipal library in Radovis have been identified as recipients of the supplies. Additionally, educational books will be distributed to schools in Zelino and Rankovce, and to the library in Radovis.

The supplies were brought to Macedonia from U.S. military bases in Germany. Transportation of the 40 containers of supplies was provided by the U.S. Army, while USAID's Decentralization Project and MGGF team are working with Macedonian authorities on administrative details of the large shipment. Arrangements for distribution of the materials are in progress. The MGGF is part of USAID's Decentralization Project, which supports municipalities as they deal with the realities of decentralization in Macedonia.

U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Wilson, Chief of the Office of Defense Cooperation, commented: "The U.S. armed forces carry out military training and humanitarian assistance programs throughout the world. By contributing these useful supplies and books to schools and libraries, we are building on our friendship and cooperation with the government and people of Macedonia."

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